

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Fumiko Abe Watanabe

"What I think was, Mr. [George] Munro wanted a cook. So, Mother went there to cook. And then Dad was a carpenter, so I think he worked in the little carpenter shop over there. But later on, I remember, he worked as gardener or yardman or all-around worker for Mr. and Mrs. Munro. He used to raise vegetables, saw wood, you know, for their fireplace. And take care of the dogs. And there was a large swimming pool. You know, when their [Munros'] daughters used to come back [from school on O'ahu] like that. Dad used to clean the (chuckles) swimming pool. Those things I remember."

Eizo and Masuka Abe immigrated to Hawai'i from Kumamoto, Japan. Fumiko Abe Watanabe, their only child, was born April 17, 1917 in Makawao, Maui. Her father was a yardman in Olinda for the Frank Baldwin family, her mother was the cook. The family later moved to Lahaina, where Eizo worked as a carpenter for Baldwin Packers, a pineapple cannery, and Masuka did domestic work for the Baldwins.

In 1921, Eizo, Masuka, and Fumiko moved to Kō'e'ele, Lāna'i--Eizo to be the George Munros' yardman and Masuka, the cook. They lived in a cottage located near the Munros' home.

Fumiko attended the one-room Kō'e'ele School and continued her studies at Kō'e'ele Grammar School. In 1930, she left for Maui to attend Wailuku Junior High School, returning to Lāna'i to spend her summer vacations. She graduated from Lahainaluna High School in 1936. Her parents left Lāna'i in 1934 and lived the remainder of their lives in Lahaina.

After spending four years as a tuberculosis patient at Kula Hospital, Fumiko remained there and worked in the patients' library from 1943 to 1979. She still lives in Kula with her husband Wallace, whom she married in 1955.

Tape No. 16-35-1-89

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Fumiko Abe Watanabe (FW)

March 30, 1989

Kula, Maui

BY: Mina Morita (MM) and Warren Nishimoto (WN)

MM: This is an interview with Fumiko Abe Watanabe at her home in Kula, Maui, on Thursday, March 30, 1989. The interviewers are Warren Nishimoto and Mina Morita.

Okay, Mrs. Watanabe. Could you give us your full name?

FW: Fumiko Abe Watanabe.

MM: And your birth date?

FW: April 17, 1917.

MM: And where were you born?

FW: Makawao, Maui.

MM: And your parents' names?

FW: My father's name was Eizo Abe and my mother Masuka Abe.

MM: Okay. You mentioned that you were adopted, yeah?

FW: Yeah.

MM: As an infant?

FW: Yes.

MM: Okay, let's see, what kind of work did your father do?

FW: First he worked for Frank Baldwin, I think, at [his home in] Olinda. I have the picture but I don't know where. And then later on he farmed. And after that we moved to Lahaina and they were building the Lahaina cannery [i.e., Baldwin Packers, organized by the Baldwin family in 1912], so he worked there as carpenter, I think. And then after that, we lived in Lahaina town, a back street, and he was doing simple carpentry. And Mother used to go and clean at the

Baldwin house over there. And I attended kindergarten right there.

MM: Is that Kam[ehameha] III School?

FW: No, there was a kindergarten right back of Baldwin home, right in that area.

MM: Did it have a name?

FW: I don't remember the name. One of the teachers, I remember, was Miss Mabel (and another was Yae Kawasaki, whom we called "Miss Yae"). You want me to describe the back streets? (Chuckles) Not necessary.

WN: No, that's. . . . I guess not.

FW: That's Lahaina, that's why.

WN: Yeah.

MM: So, when did your family move to Lāna'i?

FW: I don't know how soon after that, but, I remember leaving with Mother on a small fishing boat, sampan-like. Not large like Betty D. or something like that. It was a small fishing boat with a flat top. And then Mother and I sat on top of that flat thing. And I don't know how many hours it took, but we reach Manele landing, you know. No Kaumalapau [Harbor], you know. Then Mr. [George] Munro was waiting for us.

MM: About what year was this?

FW: I think about '21, something like that. I'm not sure. The road from Manele to Ko'ele was rocky and bumpy, and Mr. Munro's car wasn't a Model-T. I don't know. It was little bit longer. I don't know if it was. Those days . . .

WN: Model-A? Was it a Model-A?

FW: I don't know much about cars, but . . .

MM: I don't know cars either.

(Laughter)

WN: Me, too.

FW: But, no, my father had a Model-T, see. Rather boxy, square, yeah. But, Mr. Munro's one was maybe early Chevy-like-looking. You know, little bit longer, not boxy.

MM: I forgot to ask you. What brought you folks to move to Lāna'i?

FW: What I think was, Mr. Munro wanted a cook. So, Mother went there to cook. And then Dad was a carpenter, so I think he worked in the little carpenter shop over there. But later on, I remember, he worked as gardener or yardman or all-around worker for Mr. and Mrs. Munro. He used to raise vegetables, saw wood, you know, for their fireplace. And take care of the dogs. And there was a large swimming pool. You know, when their [daughters] used to come back [from school on O'ahu] like that. Dad used to clean the (chuckles) swimming pool. Those things I remember.

WN: This is the pool right in front of the manager's house?

FW: Yeah, where the parrot used to stay, right.

WN: How did your---do you know how your dad and mom knew the Munros?

FW: I think through the Baldwins, because she was working at the Baldwin home. And prior to that, you know, in the early days, Makawao days, Dad sometimes used to, just when there weren't enough hands or something, he used to play polo. The Baldwin boys were all young. Chu and Edward. So, when not enough players or something, they used to beg Dad to. (Chuckles) I don't know if Dad could ride a horse, but, anyway. That was what Dad used to say. And Mother used to cook. And, when Mother used to cook in the evenings, maybe I used to get in the way. They churned butter. You know, they made their butter. So, the easy part, you know, when it was still light, I had to sit out on the veranda and churn. (Chuckles) I think that kept me out of mischief.

WN: How did you churn butter?

FW: The first one they had was sort of a round thing and opening at the top, and they put this buttermilk or whatever--you know I cannot remember--in there, and then there was a front crank, you know. So, in the beginning, just kind of buttery, not buttery-like, but creamy-like thing. You churn, churn, then harden, and then later on I think you add coloring and whatever Mother used to do. The beginning part was easy, but, towards the end, you know, kind of . . .

MM: Hard.

FW: Yeah.

MM: Where did they used to get the milk to make the butter?

FW: Oh, from the ranch, I guess.

MM: They kept milking cows?

FW: I guess, mm hmm. I know they used to slaughter the cows. If you had come earlier, I could even tell you how . . .

(Laughter)

FW: . . . a cow is killed and fixed.

MM: How often did they make butter?

FW: Gee, I don't know. I cannot remember how often.

MM: And as a little girl, did you have any other chores?

FW: At home?

MM: Mm hmm.

FW: I had to polish the lamp.

WN: The kerosene lamp?

FW: Yeah, kerosene lamp, the glass part. And then maybe as I grew a little older, sometimes I used to trim [the wick]. But as for putting the kerosene in, Dad used to do that because the can was kind of heavy. But every time I had to polish the. . . . (Chuckles)

WN: The chimney, eh, you polish?

FW: Yeah, yeah, chimney.

MM: Clean all the black stuff off.

FW: Yeah, yeah. We didn't have electricity for quite some time. Later on, I don't know when, but we had electricity. I think Mr. Munro had electricity because they had a generator. (I also fed the chickens, rabbits, canaries and the dog. I started the fire for the furo.)

MM: I forgot to ask you, where did you folks live?

FW: Oh, right next to Mrs. [Helen Jean] Forbes and right in back of the store. I would say back, yeah? As you entered over there, our house was the first house. Over there.

MM: Okay. So, there was a long sidewalk going up to Mrs. Forbes' house and then to the left of it was the store?

FW: There was a long sidewalk from Mr. Munro['s home] to that [store and] office over there, where Mrs. Forbes used to work. And, I think there was a sidewalk going to her home, you know. Her home was in the back.

MM: And then so you lived in the back of the store?

FW: I don't know how to place it. Anyway, for instance, this was the store. And then Mrs. Forbes lived here. And we lived right near

the store. So, when they had that big fire [in 1927], my parents and Mr. [K.] Shiraki were the first to go there. Someone rang--I think Mother rang the bell or something. And Dad and Mr. Shiraki rolled the kerosene. You know they used to come in . . .

MM: In the barrels?

FW: Yeah, in metal barrels. So, they rolled that away, and got the hose and they sprayed [water] on the store, you know, the walls, so it won't burn too much. It got scorched, though, but it didn't burn, fortunately. But about three cars were burned. And then the toolhouse over there--at that time, I think, I don't know if Dad was already taking care of the tool section. Oh, and Mr. Munro was concerned and rushed to the fire. The iron gate was closed. So the next morning, he had plaster over here. He injured his nose, I think. He must have banged on the gate. And then, oh, the fire engine took so long to come up. You know the two hills over there?

MM: Mm hmm.

FW: That's way up.

MM: So, did this fire happen when you first moved there or later on?

FW: Later on because the Kidos' son, the younger one [Mike], was living with us, you know. Mother used to take care of him because his parents were separated or something like that.

MM: So, about how old were you when this fire happened?

FW: I must have been about maybe eight [ten], I think. This Mike [Kido] was about three or four. So Mother told me as she was going out, get the sheet and put all our clothing in. You know, all my clothing, whatnot, in. But, we were so excited.

(Laughter)

MM: You didn't do it?

FW: No, what was precious to me was the things I made in school, you know, like valentines and I had pictures on the wall. Those days I used to go to Sunday school so I had a picture of Christ pasted on the wall. So, what I could take off, you know, took off. And Mike and I would go to the window and look. And then Mike was all, not excited, but he didn't know what to do. And he was holding Mr. Shiraki's watch, you know. He was responsible for the watch. (Chuckles) So, with the watch, he's following me all over.

WN: Were you Christian?

FW: No, my parents were Buddhists, you know.

MM: And they had Sunday school for . . .

FW: That old one-house Kō'ele School in the pasture. Not the new one up on the plateau, the old one. Mr. Chang and Mr. Ahuna used to teach, you know. And we didn't have any church, so, I used to enjoy going to that church. And later on when our church was built, you know, 1924, Dad start taking me there, so.

MM: Did you attend school when you folks moved to Lāna'i? When you first moved? School on Lāna'i, that is.

FW: School? Yeah, that one cottage. You know in the pasture with all the cow dungs all (chuckles) in the pasture. You have to be careful. Really lots of dung, you know.

(Laughter)

FW: And then on the dung, milkweed would grow. And the caterpillars loved that. You know the monarch butterflies. So, we used to gather the caterpillar and bring home and I used to put in that Oimatsu Tea box, the box that the Oimatsu Tea used to come in. And make pukas on the top and then watch how the caterpillars turn into butterfly, you know, cocoons. We used to do that sort of thing.

MM: When you first started, do you remember your teacher's name or who taught at school?

FW: Yeah, Miss [Ruth P.] Walker.

MM: And where did she come from?

FW: I don't know.

WN: So this is the one-room schoolhouse [Kō'ele School] that [later] became Hannah [Kauila] Richardson's house?

MM: Yeah. And then later on, they built another school [Kō'ele Grammar School in 1927], I think, yeah?

FW: Over there. But Lāna'i City children, I think, went to that one-room school, too. Because, I remember some people, I'll tell you the names later on.

MM: So, that one-room school, how long did you go to that school?

FW: I think I must have been second grade. I think third grade, we were in that new school, I think. And then there were several classes, I know, we were in first grade or something. And then, sometimes, that, what you call that? The head of the schools?

WN: Principal?

FW: No, not that.

WN: Headmaster?

FW: No, the one go around the island schools and visit.

MM: Oh, the people from the [Department of Public Instruction]?

FW: Yeah. They used to come visit. I remember, they said, "Show your fingers," eh?

(Laughter)

WN: Oh, you mean nails?

FW: Yeah.

WN: Oh.

FW: I remember. And one such person told me, "Push your cuticles back," you know. "Then you won't have hangnails," or something, you know. I still remember that. (Chuckles) I think I had lots of hangnails. Oh, and then at Christmastime, we had this great big tree. And then we used to make those paper chains and string popcorns.

MM: Did you have pageants and stuff at school?

FW: Ah, in that one-room school, I don't remember, but the other side, we used to have. Programs at the [Lāna'i] Theater, and sometimes at school.

WN: At the one-room schoolhouse, was it mostly Hawaiian children?

FW: Mixed.

WN: Hawaiian and Japanese?

FW: Hawaiian, Japanese, and the Kwons, they Korean, eh? Koreans, Hawaiians. And then, I think Douglas used to go, too, Douglas Forbes. I cannot remember. I don't know if they went to Punahou. I don't remember Douglas going there. He was younger, so.

MM: You mentioned Shiraki?

FW: Yeah.

MM: What did he used to do?

FW: He was a bachelor, and then, I don't know if he took care of the plants above that reservoir, you know. There was a nursery over there. I don't know if he did little bit of that, but he used to work down the piggery, too. You know, feeding the pigs. And later on he moved to Lāna'i City, and then he used to peddle pies and pastries.

MM: Can you tell us more about your mother's work and if you used to help her when you were little and things like that?

FW: You mean at. . . .

MM: At the Munros' house.

FW: Munros' house? Oh, I didn't help, but in the back there was a laundry room and there were rollers, you know, to roll the sheets. I mean, press the sheets, and right next to that room, the generator was there. And in another section, there was this, I remember, a little--(chuckles) I don't know what you call it, where you can boil water or boil the clothing. They used to throw their rubbish there in that place to burn the rubbish, but that was to boil the clothes. You know olden days, they used to boil the clothes. And Mother and Mrs. Morita used to, you know, fold the linen there. And they had this roller thing that they roll the linen. You know the bigger linen.

WN: The roller was to dry it?

MM: No, to get the wrinkles out.

WN: Oh. So they had a big pot to boil the clothes in?

FW: Yeah, I cannot recall now Mother boiling the clothing, but there was a place where they could put the. . . .

MM: So, she wasn't the only person that worked in the house?

FW: Yeah, Mrs. Morita. Before that, I don't know, the Umedas--I think their name was [J.] Umeda--used to live next door to us, where Mrs. Morita came to live after these people left.

MM: And Mrs. Morita was married to. . . .

FW: Mr. Toyoki Morita.

MM: Toyoki.

FW: Yeah, Toyoki. And he was cowboy. But he also used to go in the mountains and plant plants with Mr. Munro.

WN: So your mom did laundry and she did butter. What else did she do?

FW: Cook, and clean the house, too, I think. You know. They all work together. Shall I tell you about the outhouse? (Chuckles)

WN: Yes, please.

(Laughter)

FW: There was a outhouse for my mother and Mrs. Morita, and, I guess, Dad too. There were three big adult [holes]. And there was a small one for me.

(Laughter)

FW: So, when Mother used to go take--Mother used to smoke, you know--so when Mother used to take a break over there, you know, and sometimes, they both would be sitting there, so I go and sit where I was supposed to sit. Dad never join us, but, you know, three of us. Way out near the chicken coop, yeah?

WN: Mm, how far away? How long a walk was it?

FW: No, not very far. Not too far. I don't know how to say. (Chuckles) I can't. Not near the house, though. You know, slightly out. Anyway, the Munros had a big yard. And way down the front section, there was avocado trees. And, you know, olden days avocados were kind of stringy. But, they have that avocado smell, or what you call fragrance. Not like now days kind, odorless. Not like eating avocado. But olden days one had good flavor, I thought. (Chuckles) And there were lots of lime trees, too. You know, big lime trees. And they had, what do you call that? American guava, that red one.

WN: Strawberry guava?

FW: Yeah, they had that, too.

MM: Waiawī?

FW: Yeah, yeah, waiawī. We used to go and (chuckles)---we used to go to the backyard and, you know, we were naughty so we used to go (chuckles) under the wire and steal those waiawī. And way in the back portion, Mr. Munro had pigeons. I guess they had squabs, sometimes, yeah. And then in the back, also, he had laid some hau branches and the pepeiao used to grow on that, you know. And they had liliko'i and they had tree tomato. But I didn't care for the tree tomato. They had one tree tomato over there. And then they had guest quarters. During the summer when the girls came back, they brought friends, and they used to swim and what. And later on, I met a gentleman that used to come, (chuckles) came over there, you know. A Honolulu person. He was an engineer, but we were talking about Lāna'i and he said, "Yeah, I went there," you know. One summer or . . .

MM: After you had left Lāna'i?

FW: Yeah, when I was working here [Maui], you know. I was much older, but this gentleman had visited the Munros in his younger days. Small world if you talk, you know.

WN: What kind of things did you folks have then? You said you had chicken coops. Was that your chicken coops or the Munros'?

FW: The Munros'. We had chickens at home, too. We had chicken and duck, and canary, and we had hunting dog. Mr. Munro had given us a

hunting dog. And at one time, we had two cats.

MM: Did you folks have a garden separate from the Munro garden? Did you have your own?

FW: No, Mother had a garden in the back of the bathhouse, but the only thing she grew was pipinola and some kind of taro. The Japanese eat the stem. The stem of this taro. You don't eat the bulb, but you eat the stem as sort of greens. My mother always used to cook pipinola and the pipinola shoots, which I didn't care for. And then once in a while, she used to grow, maybe, cabbage, you know. And then at one time, she ordered this Japanese or Chinese pohā, you know those that come red. I remember she raised that once. And once she got some tiger lily bulbs, I think, which was beautiful. And as for other things, we didn't have much vegetables, I mean, from our own yard. We had a lime tree in the back. Oh, and we had lots of passion fruit, you know the yellow one, pohā[pohā]. You know, in the backyard on the trellis. And then Dad had put wire around our veranda, low, so that I could hang whatever I wash. I didn't do big laundry, but, you know, sometimes. And then on that wire, pohā[pohā] grew, and we always had lots.

MM: Can you describe what your house looked like?

FW: Oh, we had the parlor and one bedroom, and then we could use another portion next to the parlor as a bedroom, but, just a small place. And then we had a kitchen. And then the back house had the bathtub. You know Japanese furo. And then, a little storeroom. (The walls were made with one-by-twelve wood, which left small cracks. My parents posted paper on the walls to cover the cracks. I always thought the paste was actually poi. Our floor had a thin goza covering.) Lots of people used to come and stay with us. Like I remember the dentist from Lahaina came, you know, used our kitchen as his dental clinic.

(Laughter)

FW: How dirty.

WN: Is that your father's friend, or something or. . . .

FW: Not really friend, but I guess they asked to come, you know. And once we had certain kind of religion, you know, aside from us, they wanted to come. So they stayed and I even learned their prayer because . . .

(Laughter)

FW: . . . they prayed, their way of praying, because they prayed every day, you know. And then I guess the Umeda's next door relative used to bring jewelry and whatnot and used to display at our house. Not many people came, but Mother used to buy little pins, or a bracelet for me or something. And those kind of people used to come. And

then Dad had a friend, Korean friend, Mr. Oh, you know, Antone Oh. He had a Portuguese wife and, anyway, he was Antone Oh. And then my parents said when I was a baby, Mr. Oh used to say, "Don, don, don, don," and you know, play with me, you know, kind of. So, he was "Don-don" to me.

(Laughter)

WN: He used to rock you?

FW: Yeah, rock or play with me. And he used to come with his herbs, you know.

MM: Who used to buy the herbs?

FW: My parents. (Chuckles)

MM: But anybody else?

FW: "Don-don" would say, oh, this good for what and, you know, all kind Chinese medicine and whatnot.

MM: Did he sell to anybody else in the camp?

FW: I don't remember. I guess, maybe, some of them. But I don't remember. But I know Dad used to buy all those preserved snakes. And, what other people used to come. You know a lot of people used to come like that, you know.

MM: Like salesman?

FW: Yeah.

MM: When they--from Maui?

FW: Yeah, yeah. Like the jewelry man used to come. I guess our next-door neighbor was related to him so he used to come quite often.

MM: Who was your neighbor?

FW: Was Umeda, I think, at that time. And they left and then the [Toyoki] Moritas came. And there was a young girl, you know. Could have been their daughter. She must have been a teenager, somewhat like Rebecca Richardson's age, yeah? Around there, teenagers.

MM: What did the Umedas used to do?

FW: What I think is, Mrs. Umeda was working for the Munros and after she left, Mrs. Morita came. That's what I think, because I know the Umedas was before the Moritas.

MM: As a little girl, did you play with the other kids in the ranch area?

FW: Yeah, yeah. Nishimura's kids. Yeah, Fusako's uncles. Uncle and one aunty, yeah, played with them.

MM: And, what kind of games did you used to play?

FW: Ah, of course, the boys played cowboy. You know, they got this eucalyptus branch, just a long stick and put strings at the front, and ride that thing.

(Laughter)

FW: And then sometimes we used to go to the dump and get cans. And make a hole in the center and then put strings, rope-like. You know, strung through, and put the nail or something to hold the string. And we used to hop around on those things. And then we used to do stilts. Well, I couldn't walk on the stilts. Nishimura, Shigeto, I guess you heard of him, yeah? Fusako's uncle. They used to. . . . And then the boys did that broomstick or something they made? Something. What do you call that game?

WN: Oh that game, peewee?

FW: (Chuckles) I don't know what you call, I forget?

WN: The one that you hit. . . .

FW: Hit and I guess you put down and you flip up.

WN: Flip the thing up.

FW: Yeah, something, it flips up.

WN: I think that's peewee.

FW: I don't know if they hit it, too, but, I don't remember. And we used to play marbles, you know, five holes or something like. And hopscotch. You know, on the ground and you draw.

WN: Did you swim in the reservoir?

FW: No, I didn't. I cannot swim. Maybe Mānele I used to float on the wood, or, my parents bought for me wings or something, inflated thing. But, no. Oh, when the reservoir overflowed, there used to be funa. Not koi, you know, funa fish. You know, the red fish.

MM: They were saying goldfish.

FW: There were goldfish, too, in there, I think. And when it overflowed, all the kids and everybody went to pick up.

MM: Pick up to save it or pick up. (Chuckles)

FW: I don't know if they. . . . Funa isn't delicious, so, maybe to play

with, I think, yeah, yeah. I don't remember.

WN: How often did it overflow?

FW: Not often.

MM: Just when the rains come.

FW: Yeah, and there used to be dragonflies, you know. When the water was low there were dragonflies and we used to catch those. And what else? (Chuckles) And, you know, above the village, you know the low mountain? On the left-hand side, there used to be couple of lehua trees. But we were told not to pick the lehuas because [if you do,] it's going to rain. But under the lehua tree, there were few mailes growing, you know, over there. Have you been there?

MM: I'm not sure where you're talking, but I know there is maile on Lana'i.

FW: Yeah. So, I used to like to go over there and get the maile, and you pound the stem and you get the stem out, then you. . . . Not too many mailes over there, but we used to do that and we used to look for white guavas. The only other place that I saw white guavas was Waihe'e Valley on Maui. But Lana'i there used to be white guavas, so, we used to look for it. And in the golf course, you know, it was a pasture? When you go to certain section, these guava trees would be low, but when you go inside there'd be huge guavas. We used to hunt for those. Forever we were eating guavas.

(Laughter)

FW: You know, those days, not much candies, yeah? Once in a while come in Mrs. Forbes' place [i.e., store], Christmas, like that. But other times. . . .

WN: Did your mother make anything with guavas?

FW: She used to make jelly, I think, about the only thing. Not too much. Then, what else can I say. . . .

WN: You know, your mother, she cooked for the Munros and she cooked for you folks, too. Did she cook different foods?

FW: Yeah.

WN: For the Munros and then you folks or did you folks eat the same things?

FW: No, Munros had their own thing and we had our own thing at home (chuckles).

WN: So like what did she cook for the Munros?

FW: (She cooked scones, cakes, pies, roast beef, lamb chops.)

WN: But she cooked every day, not just for parties and things?

FW: No, every day. Every day. They were gone till late, you know. About seven-thirty or more, I think. It's dark when she used to come home. So I used to go and be around the kitchen. I don't know what Dad was doing, but he used to be in the kitchen. Oh, and then I remember once she wanted me to eat this thing. She said, "Oh, it's delicious."

It was the pupa of this yellow jacket or something. (Chuckles) She said how they do, and then she said, Mr. Munro brought this, you know, this worm-like thing. And then they fried it in, I don't know if butter or what, but, you know this thing got crispy and delicious, you know, so she wanted to share with me. And I didn't like worms at that time. (Laughter) Every time caterpillar or anything to do with those things so I refused to eat and she forced it into my mouth. And I just spat out, you know. I still remember that. My mother would try anything.

(Laughter)

MM: Who taught her how to cook?

FW: Gee, I don't know. I guess Mrs. Munro must, because recipe list she cannot read. Not so good in English. But she still made good apple pies like that, you know. The crust would be good.

WN: And for you folks it was Japanese food?

FW: Yeah, Japanese food.

WN: Rice.

FW: Yeah, maybe hekka or sometime fish. Oh, speaking of fish, whenever fishbone would get in our throat, we had this hocus-pocus and we put fishbone on our head and then drink water, then that bone would go down. Yeah, kid days, yeah. Mother used to say, "Chew well," you know, and you won't swallow the bone. So be careful and chew. (She pickled and canned vegetables such as string beans.)

MM: Where did you folks used to get the fish from?

FW: I don't know where. Sometimes I think, you know, 'ōpelu used to---Keōmuku or something, used to come and sell, I think. So, we had because I remember the bones, and 'ōpelu I know very well because when we were in Lahaina, Mother used to always buy 'ōpelu and she used to mix that with vinegar and round onion. And I didn't like those half-raw things, but I had to eat, yeah.

(Laughter)

FW: Oh, and since we lived on a ranch, we always had meat. She used to roast it or something. But we had to eat for several days, yeah, roast meat or something. And then, I don't know why, maybe kidney was cheaper or something, but she used to buy kidney. And that thing is very, what you call, not gamey, what you call. . . .

WN: Smelly.

FW: Yeah, smelly. So she put plenty salt and pepper. And I used to dislike it.

WN: Besides kidneys, did you eat other parts?

FW: Yeah, the what?

MM: Liver?

FW: Yeah, liver and then what's that. . . .

MM: Tripe?

FW: Yeah, tripe. We had tripe. (But we never ate the heart.)

WN: Tongue?

FW: No, no tongue. (Chuckles) I don't like tongue. Mother would have eaten, I think, but I don't care for that. But chicken I used to eat everything. Strange, you know, when I was little, I used to like everything. The heart of the chicken and, what, the feet? You know, usually people don't like the feet. I used to like the---Mother had to keep the feet for me, you know. If was fish, they had to keep the eye.

WN: Eyeball.

FW: (Chuckles) Eyeball for me.

WN: You eat the eyeball?

FW: Eyeball and fish egg like that, you know. So, I ate the eyeball and the meaty section. And Dad used to like the meaty section. Mother had to eat the head and she had to eat the rib of the fish, you know.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

WN: Okay.

FW: You know what I used to enjoy? Going to watch how they kill the

cow. In the early days, before they had the slaughterhouse, they tied the cow to a eucalyptus tree. And then they stab it in the neck and then strung it up by the legs, and then remove the skin and the innards. And everybody used to come and buy whatever they wanted. But I was so afraid to go near, you know, pitiful to watch. So there was a pipe house right near our section, beyond our house.

MM: A pipe house?

FW: Yeah, pipe house. They used to keep--I don't know if they kept lumber in there, too, but all the pipes, you know.

MM: Store the pipes?

FW: Yeah, it was stored in there. So I used to go in there and then, no cows, no runaway cows would come. And I used to watch from there and after they got it stabbed and killed, then I used to go down and squat beside it. Watch every move that they. . . . So, I could tell you how a cow was skinned, and sometimes there used to be calves, you know. So some people bought the brains, and some, the heart, you know, all kinds.

WN: Did they sell it right there?

FW: Yeah.

WN: Right at the point by, right where they slaughtered the cow?

FW: Yeah. I don't remember if there was a cement [slab] there under the eucalyptus tree. But they hung it from the tree, and then later on there was this slaughterhouse way down near the piggery. Over there, the cow was shot in the forehead.

WN: About how old were you when they put the slaughterhouse up?

FW: The new one?

WN: Mm.

FW: Gee, I don't remember when. But, I was older though. I used to go down all the time to the piggery. And when one of the children who lived with us, Mother used to take him down to the slaughterhouse, mostly to the piggery, to watch. Sometimes he would be fussy and mother would piggyback him and go down and watch Mr. Shiraki feed the pigs. Oh, and they slaughtered sheep, too, you know, once in a while.

WN: Did they slaughter sheep the same way?

FW: I think they stabbed that, too, but I kind of forgot, yeah, they skinned, but the fur is different. Oh, and . . .

MM: Oh, go ahead.

FW: Oh, when we landed at Mānele, but Dad came through Keōmuku, you know, by horseback. He came one month later. He came through the back way. And I was so glad when I could see his horse coming around the bend over there. Really was a happy--you know he. . . .

WN: Oh, you mean, you came in 1921 [from Maui] and then he came a month later.

FW: Yeah, a month later. I guess he had to clear everything.

WN: Oh, oh, I see. He came to Kahalepalaoa . . .

FW: Yeah, Keōmuku.

WN: . . . the landing up there?

MM: Yeah, yeah.

WN: Oh, I see.

FW: Keōmuku, so he had to come in by horseback. No Mr. Munro's car to (chuckles) get him.

MM: Did you folks go down to Keōmuku very often?

FW: I went just once when the Tamas, you know, Helen was with us. We went to visit. He [Ichiro Tamura] was taking care of the honeybees, beehives. And that's about the only time I rode by myself on the horse. You know, we took turns and rode to Keōmuku and back, yeah?

MM: Oh, if you didn't ride the horse, did you have to walk?

FW: Yeah, there was only one horse. Mr. Tamura had one horse, so, I ride little while. I don't remember if mother rode, but all of us walked on the side while the other person rode.

WN: So, Helen Tamura [Onuma] stayed with you folks, too, right?

FW: Yeah, she . . .

WN: She came up from Keōmuku to go to school in Kō'e'e?

FW: She was with us about one year, I think. She was about eight years old.

WN: So seems like there were a lot of people staying with you folks.

FW: Yeah.

WN: How did your father know all these people?

(Laughter)

WN: It seems like, well, a lot of people we've talked to have mentioned your father's name, you know. So he must have known a lot of people.

FW: I don't know, but my parents didn't have children and they loved children and, you know, if somebody asked for help, they always helped. No matter how poor we were, we were always poor, but we were rich in children (chuckles). I didn't have a sister or brother, you know. But, these children all were like sisters and brothers with me.

WN: What kinds of things would you and Helen do together?

FW: Oh, I used to tutor her, too, but I used to be mean to her, I think.

(Laughter)

WN: You folks are how many years apart?

FW: Gee, I don't know.

WN: She was born '22.

FW: Oh, I was [born in] '17, yeah, so [when] she was eight I was a teenager already.

WN: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

FW: Nineteen-thirty. . . . So I used to pinch her, I think.

(Laughter)

FW: I don't know. She didn't tell you that?

WN: No, no. She didn't tell me that.

FW: I think I was mean to her. The boys, I didn't. . . . Well, boys different, so, (chuckles) I don't think I did anything to Mike like that.

(Laughter)

MM: It seems like the Japanese families were real close. Did you folks mingle with the Hawaiians and the Koreans?

FW: Yeah, yeah. I used to go to Elizabeth [Keahi] Kwon's place, too. Her mother [Elizabeth Napuehu Kwon] had to rest, yeah? She was ill.

MM: She was sick, yeah.

FW: So, I know I used to go. And, those days, everybody, we at home used to sleep on the floor. I go to Elizabeth's place, they all sleep on the--all the children. So, we were rolling around playing

in the (chuckles) beds, you know. I mean, on the floor, like that. And then I remember going to, I don't know if that was a Kama home but. . . . What was the Kama's oldest girl's name? Elizabeth?

MM: Kama?

FW: John Kama. John Kama and one younger brother and then one sister. I remember going over there and eating poi and salt and I couldn't eat the chile pepper, but. I don't know if had dried beef or what, but I remember doing that.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

WN: Okay, we talked about your mom, what do you remember about your father? What kind of jobs did he have around the Munro house?

FW: Oh, I had a picture of him sawing wood. I mean, machinery. You know those . . .

MM: Carpentry kind?

FW: No, when you cut wood. You know, that round saw, the thing buzz along and you just put the wood to it and. . . .

MM: Oh.

FW: This thing was set in the yard and you just bring the logs and they press against that wheels. He used to do that, and he used to raise vegetables, I guess, little bit. Take care of the chickens. I don't know if he used to wash the car.

WN: Did he get to do any carpentry things?

FW: For the Munros?

WN: Yeah.

FW: No, I don't think so.

MM: Was he the mechanic?

FW: No, he's not the mechanic, my dad. (Chuckles) Not the mechanic type, I think.

WN: Did your parents speak English?

FW: Pidgin.

WN: Pidgin.

FW: Mother, she try, but just like me, the tongue doesn't roll. (Chuckles)

WN: So how did they communicate with the Munros? Pidgin mostly?

FW: Yeah, pidgin. My mother tries and tongue rolls, but somehow they communicate, I guess.

MM: How did you folks used to get around?

FW: Get around? You mean. . . .

MM: Or did you go anywhere?

(Laughter)

FW: You mean at the ranch?

MM: Yeah.

FW: Oh.

MM: You said you only went to Keōmuku once.

FW: Yes.

MM: What about Mānele, did you folks go to Mānele?

FW: Yeah, well, we used to picnic once in a while. Mr. Shiraki used to go with us and the Sawadas. And she passed away, but she was Mrs. Funada, I think, Florence [Tsuchiyo] Fujie, she was. We used to picnic at Mānele, and we children used to swim, and maybe go around the cliff side. Not much 'opihis, but, we might find a few. And the kūpīpis we used to pick.

MM: How did you get there?

FW: Gee, I don't know. How did we get there?

(Laughter)

MM: Did you have to ride horse and did you have to . . .

FW: No, no, no, not horse. But, some kind of, (chuckles) I don't know how we went. I don't recall how we went down there, but we went down there, I know.

WN: Did you ride horse a lot?

FW: No, I lived on a ranch, but just the cowboys, yeah. We didn't have horse and we not supposed to ride the company horses.

MM: So, besides the ranch store--oh, what kind of things did they used to carry in the ranch store? Did you shop there often?

FW: Yeah, you know at one time, I don't know whether it was in high

school, but we had to describe something and give it local color, where the words make you smell, whatever. I wrote about the Kō'ele ranch store. And my teacher thought I took it from a book. She said, "Did you take it from a book?"

But, fortunately, my classmate had gone to Boy Scout and then while in the Boy Scout, he had gone to Kō'ele ranch. And he saw the store, not inside, but he knew I wrote about it. So, he said, "I know you wrote it yourself." But, anyway, when you went into the store, you could smell the salt salmon that used to come in a barrel, you know wooden barrel? And poi used to come. And all kinds of smells. And Mrs. Forbes would be there at her books, you know. And everybody charged, I guess. And there was a box on the counter where the mail came in.

MM: And did you go there to pick up your mail, if you had mail?

FW: Yeah, I think so, I did. Dad always had the Nippu Jiji coming in. Newspaper. We always had the newspaper. And then my real mother used to send me Japanese little children's booklets, you know. All about the elves and the raccoon, and, you know, the little people and all kind. You know, Japanese. Written in kana, katakana. I learned katakana from my father. They didn't go to school, but katakana is the easiest, so he knew, so he used to teach me. So by the time I went to Japanese-language school, katakana, I knew, I could read. So, I used to read these little Japanese books. Oh, it gave me great pleasure, you know. And, what else. . . .

MM: Let's see, was the store open at certain times or . . .

FW: Yeah, in the afternoon about four-thirty or five, the bell would ring, Mrs. Forbes or somebody would ring the bell, then everybody's pau hana already, they all come streaming into the store. All the cowboys and whatnot. Everybody's busy buying poi and salt salmon and all kinds.

MM: And, did you go to the store to buy things?

FW: Ah, not much things for me to buy. (Chuckles) (I used to watch people walking to the store from my window.)

WN: Oh, did they have things like candy or things like that?

FW: I don't remember candy, but, around Christmas or something, I don't know how often they got oranges, but I know eating Sunkist orange quite often. And apple, especially around Christmastime, you know. And I know dried raisins, those days, raisins were on this stem, and the seeds, no more seedless. No seedless raisins, so, what a problem to spit out that seed, you know (chuckles). What else? I cannot think what else I used to see in the store, but we ordered things, I guess, from away. You know, Mrs. Forbes would order.

WN: What kinds of things would she order?

FW: Like my doll.

(Laughter)

FW: My doll. I guess clothing, too, because olden days we used to wear dresses and these bloomers underneath, you know. Even under a dress we used to wear that matching bloomers with that dress. That sort of thing. (Chuckles)

MM: Did your mother sew?

FW: Ah, not too much. She sewed her own dresses, though. But mine, not too much.

MM: Let's see. How about when you were growing up, did you go down to Lana'i City?

FW: Yeah, I went to church. And the greatest part was going to the movies. I used to enjoy going, and sometimes Dad said, "No, you can't go to the movies," then I'll have tantrums and pout. (Chuckles) Finally, he has to bring out the Ford, you know our Ford, and bring me downtown. And Sunday school, I used to walk down. But sometimes I used to get lazy, then he'd take me down, you know.

MM: So, you folks had your own cars?

FW: Yeah, we had the Ford. Dad seemed to love cars from before, you know, when he used to work Olinda, wherever. He used to fool around maybe with the Baldwins' cars so he knew how to drive. So in Lana'i, when he could afford, poor as we were and very small salary, but, I don't know how, he got a Ford. In those days, I think Ford is, I kind of remember his saying, \$500 or something, I think. For a Model-T. Oh, and then, he had the Ford all right, but the Hawaiian Pine used to close the road to Kaumalapau once a year. You know, the right of way thing, I think. I don't know. And then Dad didn't know because the kerosene lights on the road were off. And he was taking two Hawaiian friends back, just like taxi sort of. And then the lights were out so he went right into that rope and good thing it just caught the top of the car and the top went off. And the two men were sleeping so they were way down. But Dad, the glass flew and he hurt his arm. So, the next morning, that's why he had his hand in this sling. I said, "What happened?" That was it.

MM: So, about what year did he have his car, did he buy his car?

FW: His car? I don't know what year. Mr. Shiraki used to use it, too, you know. He could drive, too, so sometimes he used to use it.

MM: About how old were you when he bought the car?

FW: Gee, I don't know how old. And he used to drive the company car, you know, ranch cars, too. And once, I think that was our car, the

brakes weren't good and he was going Lāna'i City to get something. And he told us not to go, but Mike and I insisted on having a ride with him, so, we went on that Ford, but you know the two hills?

MM: Mm hmm.

FW: We went down one hill okay, but the second hill, no brakes so it went down at such speed (chuckles), Dad couldn't control that thing. And fortunately there was a fence over there so he banged into the fence and I think Mike hit his eye and I hit my lips and my lips came swollen. You know, hit that with the back of the carseat, you know. So, Dad says, "See, I told you not to come along."

(Laughter)

WN: Did you have any contact with the cowboys?

FW: Yeah . . .

WN: I mean, did you talk to them . . .

FW: That Mr. [Simeon] Kauakahi or Kapukahi.

MM: Kauakahi.

FW: Kauakahi. Yeah, there was a Kauakahi, yeah? Dad used to say "Kauakahi" and sometimes we used to say "Kapukahi" and whatever, (MM chuckles) so I don't know if that was the true name. I try to figure.

MM: Kauakahi.

FW: Yeah, Kauakahi, yeah? Just like Mr. [Henry] Gibson, he always had that cowboy outfit. Cowboy hat and spurs and he used to, on the right-hand side, there was this great big stable. This was the olden stable. And there were bales of hay. You know those square, you know, all tied up. And then they used to build these stalls and they would pitch the hay into the stall. On both sides there would be barley in these squares, you know. This sort of size thing. They put barley here and barley there. In the center they put the hay and the horses would go over there and eat. Well, this was this great big stable. And on this side, way up on the upstairs, you have to go up by ladder. I was little bit, Japanese say, otenba. (Chuckles) Climb.

MM: Otenba, what is that?

FW: (Chuckles) Tomboy.

MM: Oh.

FW: I wasn't tomboy, but I (was) kind of inquisitive so I went up there. And there would be Mr. Kauakahi. He would be mending a whip, you

know, or repairing a saddle. And up there had funny, not funny, but smell of hide. The hide, cow hides were. . . .

MM: Curing, yeah?

FW: Yeah, curing, you know with a lot of Hawaiian salt.

MM: Hawaiian salt on top.

FW: Yeah, layer after layer. Yeah, I remember that, though. I used to go and watch.

MM: Just watch him work.

FW: Yeah, watch him, getting in the way.

(Laughter)

FW: Inquisitive, you know. And later on, the stable was demolished, I think, and another string of stable was made, more where the cows used to be killed. And then, on one side, beyond the pipe house where I used to watch the slaughtering, they built a storeroom and they had these bags of barley and some kind of feed for the horses. And you know, within the feed, there used to be dried pineapples. And we kids used to go through the thing (chuckles), pick up the dried black pineapple, and when you chew on it, taste good, you know.

(Laughter)

MM: I remember doing that.

FW: Yeah, you used to do that, too? Yeah. And at home, in the chicken feed there would be sunflower seeds. We used to gather all that and eat that.

And then the eggs, you know, we used to have chicken at home, so, I don't have to go looking for eggs. But, I guess it's the fun of waiting for the hen to lay the eggs and get the eggs. So we used to wait until the hen cackled and we got the eggs. Take turns, you know. Sometimes it'd be somebody else and sometimes it'd be me. And then sometimes we used to take the eggs to Mrs. Forbes. Then she used to give us some goodies for an egg or something. And that was fun.

WN: Did you play at all with the Munro girls?

FW: No, they were big girls, they were Punahou girls. So I didn't play. But, I used to see them. The mother was Mary, I think. Mrs. Munro was Mary, I think, yeah?

MM: No, her name was Jean . . .

WN: Her name was Jean, yeah.

FW: Oh, and one daughter is Jean, too?

WN: Yeah, right.

FW: Oh, and then I said Georgina but I used to call her Georgie, I think.

WN: Yeah, right.

FW: Georgie and Ruby.

MM: Mm hmm, uh huh.

WN: What type of a man was Mr. [George] Munro?

FW: Well, to me he was old. But . . .

(Laughter)

FW: Quiet, yeah? Quiet, reserved-like. Nice man, you know. Nice man. I used to go around, but he never scolded me or anything, you know. He never bothered. He never called me or anything. He used to be Santa Claus sometimes for Christmas, I think.

MM: How did you folks used to spend your holidays, you know, like Christmas, New Year's?

FW: Oh, I can tell one thing. You know, every New Year's, not Christmas, but New Year's, my parents always put, in fact, all the Japanese families used to put up American flag and Japanese flag. They cross it, you know. And they used to decorate in front of their houses. Every New Year's, you know. And then, Christmastime, the cowboys used to come, sing, serenade, you know. And, Dad would (chuckles) or anybody would throw their few coins or something. My father didn't drink so we cannot offer drinks, but used to give a few coins or. . . . Those days, not rich, you know, everybody.

MM: Which cowboys used to come by and sing?

FW: There was one Pili or something, the ear was. . . . You remember, Pili or something?

MM: Pili Kahooalahala?

FW: I think Pili was the one. One had deformed ear. You know like that.

MM: I don't know. (FW chuckles.)

FW: You're much younger, so. And, of course, the younger ones, but I don't know which one was singing, though.

- MM: Did the ranch community ever get together for activities or to celebrate anything?
- FW: I cannot remember. (Once in a while, they would kālua pig.) But when [Wilson] died, everybody went around. Oh, it was sad, you know.
- MM: Who was that now?
- FW: Oh, Kwon. The Kwon boy that drowned [in the reservoir]. They were saying that they had put him on a barrel or something, and rolled him to get the water out. But, you know, he didn't revive. It was sad, though. We all felt it, yeah?
- MM: How did they handle his funeral?
- FW: Oh, that I don't remember. Forgot already. But I know everybody in the evening, nighttime, everybody was around, yeah. Not in the house, but surrounding, around the house. Oh, and then, I don't know whether Mrs. [Elizabeth Napuehu] Kwon's sister, no, Mrs. [Anna Napuehu] Shin was Mrs. Kwon's sister, but I guess they had given one son to Mr. Shin, I think, yeah?
- MM: Yeah.
- FW: Mr. [Bon Soon] Shin used to speak Japanese. Mr. [Gi Hong] Kwon, too. He spoke Japanese, you know.
- MM: Oh, Korean, too?
- FW: Oh, I guess they Koreans, that's why. Oh, and then, Mr. Shin was Shin Bon Soon or something like that.
- WN: You know when you left for Wailuku to go to junior high, how did you feel about leaving?
- FW: I don't remember, though. But no choice. They said I have to go, that's why.
- WN: I mean, did you want to go?
- FW: Ah, I don't recall anything. I just went. But, I enjoyed junior high school, though.
- MM: When you went away to school, who did you stay with?
- FW: My uncle. My real uncle and his family. No children, though. Only old folks.
- MM: And, you traveled by boat?
- FW: Yeah, Betty D. (and the Naia). So, you can imagine how many times I went back and forth. Every holiday I went back and, yeah.

MM: So, the Betty D. was operated by. . . .

FW: Mr. [Julius C.] Bartels.

MM: [Hawaiian Pineapple] Company?

FW: Yeah. And then when we went to Honolulu, we had to go by boat out beyond the harbor and then ride those inter-island boats.

WN: Betty D. Betty D.?

FW: Yeah, Betty Dole.

WN: Oh.

MM: Oh. Did you folks have to pay for the trip back and forth?

FW: No, no. Free. Free. My mother was a poor sailor and, boy, (chuckles) when we reach Lahaina or Honolulu by boat, they had to drag her.

(Laughter)

FW: Drag her about and then, when rough weather, the captain used to give the bucket, you know. She had to go underneath because, oh, she was sick, sick. So as soon as I rode the boat, I said, "Mr. Bartels, please give me the bucket."

And he said, "You don't get seasick."

I said, "No, it's not me, it's my mother." (Chuckles) Prepared. You know had to be prepared, yeah?

MM: So after you were going to school on Maui and going back to Lāna'i vacations, did you feel differently to Lāna'i or. . . .

FW: No, I loved Lāna'i, though. Long time, I loved Lāna'i. Of course, now, too, I have aloha for Lāna'i, but I loved Lāna'i.

WN: How do you feel about the changes that are taking place? They're putting up a hotel at Kō'ele and another hotel down Manele, you know. How do you feel about that?

FW: I don't know. Long time ago I thought if they ever built a hotel, you know, in Kō'ele like that, I know it would be highly expensive, but I would like to go there. I always tell one of these days, I'd like to go over there, not for a long time, but a few days or something. When I went back in 1950--what year was that, to attend Morita's wedding, I wanted to see. Oh, at that time, I think Masaru Kido took me up to the ranch. But, ranch had changed and I looked for the coconut tree in our yard. No coconut tree. Look for the hibiscus that I had grafted. No more hibiscus. And all the trees were changed. You know, they had more banyan, not eucalyptus. That

made me kind of sad. No more nothing that I remembered (chuckles) over there. And I don't recall seeing that big tree [Norfolk pine fronting the ranch manager's home]. It was there, maybe, but . . .

MM: It was there.

WN: When did you go? Fifty?

FW: Nineteen fifty, in the 1950s, yeah, I think . . .

WN: The ranch was closed then probably.

FW: I think before '55, though.

MM: But you left in 1934? Your parents moved?

FW: Yeah, '34, I think my parents moved out.

MM: Yeah, see, then after that, when [Ernest] Vredenberg came in [as ranch manager in 1935], he planted new trees.

FW: Yeah, I think was banyan that I noticed. But, long time ago, we had different types of eucalyptus. We had the fat round leaf eucalyptus. And in the back of the Munros, you know, outside their yard in the back, there was eucalyptus trees. And then when we used to play back there, we used to say we going build tents and we used to bring all these sticks and place it around a eucalyptus tree. And we don't have material to cover it but imagination, you know, it's a teepee (chuckles). And we used to go inside, you know. Open, but it's a teepee, and we used to go in there. And once, I don't know if one of the Nishimura boys, but he caught a rice bird with his slingshot and then we (chuckles) defeathered it, and then we brought sardine can, and we built a little fire and, oh, like eating barbecue.

(Laughter)

FW: Small thing. Hardly anything to eat, huh? But, we barbecued that. I still remember we used to do that.

WN: Would you like to go back someday to go see?

FW: Yeah.

MM: When was the last time you went back?

FW: In the '50s.

MM: In the '50s?

FW: Yeah, mid-'50s I think it was.

MM: My goodness.

FW: Before I got married [in 1955], I think, I went to that wedding. We stayed overnight, I think. Next day or something. Yeah, I like to tramp around. In my dreams sometimes I'm tramping around that old golf course looking for that big guava that I used to find.

(Laughter)

FW: Yeah. Or in the back of Mr. Munro's yard there used to be a pride of India tree and the tree had fallen, so low enough for me to pick the flowers. I used to love that flowers. You know, the purple-lavender, yeah, fragrant. And I used to make May baskets for Mrs. [Kate W.] Cooper, I used to make out of the pride of India flowers. I loved that.

Yeah, really. And I used to go to that plateau, where the new Kō'ele [Grammar] School was built and on that sides, there used to be some kind of fern and I used to like to kind of landscape that place. You know, with the weeds. Even though when we had to pull weeds in that schoolyard, you know, there's some rocks or something, looked like a landscape. To me, I used to enjoy that you leave a few weeds and then, (chuckles) it seemed like a landscape. You know, small. What else.

Oh, when we used to be naughty, we had to go pull weeds. And during our Kō'ele [Grammar] School days--not the old cottage, maybe we were too young, but the other school--if you were naughty or were to be punished, we had to go pull weeds, you know. And then we always took turns to clean the rooms. Young as we were, we used to mop.

WN: What is your best, favorite impression of, remembrance of Lāna'i?

FW: Lāna'i? It's quiet, and the wind blowing like that, it's quiet, quiet, quiet. You know when I used to go above that mountain, in the back of the ranch, by myself, you know that song, "Maggie," you know, "I've wandered today through the hills, Maggie, to watch the scene below," yeah, "the old, old rusty mill or dusty mill is still there," or something, every time that song used to come back to me. I cannot sing, but the words somehow match, looking down from that hill.

And then, Lāna'i has lot of weeds. Certain kind of weeds, you know, so, on Maui when I see that weed, I think of Lāna'i and that mountain full of that weeds. Not Spanish needle. It's common but the other kind of weed. And there used to be liliko'i in the mountains. What's that orange thing that crawls, even on the mountainside?

MM: Oh, kauna'oa?

FW: Yeah, there used to be few above Kō'ele ranch, yeah, in the mountain. Oh, and sometimes we used to go to the graveyard. And on the way, there was a slope and then sometimes the boys used to sled over there, sled or, what you call that?

MM: Just slide down, huh?

FW: Yeah, the wood, you know, they put candle wax or something and they come down the hills. (Chuckles)

MM: You didn't try it?

FW: No, I don't think I tried it, though. And I used to enjoy going around Mr. [Henry] Gibson's place. You know, Mrs. Matilda Kaula Gibson was kind of big, stately lady, yeah?

MM: Mm hmm.

FW: But I really enjoyed. And, you know, the mountain life eating guavas and you hunt for those things. And the people were nice. We used to fight. Children used to fight, but we're friends. But, I played mostly with the Nishimuras, especially that one about my age, Shigeto Nishimura. We always played together. That's why, in grammar school, the Lana'i City kids, when they see me, they used to call, "Shigeto," and they used to tease me and I used to get so mad. We were just good friends from small time. And then later on, that younger Haruko and Minoru went to Japan with their father. And when I went to Japan--this a little bit off Kō'ele--but we went to visit them and we were so glad to see each other. I was glad because I had nobody to speak English with, and then they (chuckles) were so glad to see me from Hawai'i, so we were laying around in, I don't know if it was--not a barn, but someplace. Anyway, laying on the table or whatever and we were singing all the songs they were singing from the golden song book.

(Laughter)

FW: You know, all kinds, "Star-Spangled Banner" and everything. And then the Japanese children would come and they say, "Oh, you people karasu," you know, that means crow. Noisy, you know. They didn't say crow, but they call us karasu, see. So, we used to say, "If we're karasu, you crow." (Chuckles) No, but, it was, anyway, one of those things.

WN: Well, I guess . . .

FW: Pau.

WN: I guess we're pau.

FW: Yeah, okay.

WN: Thank you.

FW: Thank you. Not so good, but.

END OF INTERVIEW

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